	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/082,280	IGARASHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Amir Alavi	2621
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.		
1. This communication is responsive to <u>The amendment received 06 June 2005</u> .		
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-19</u> .		
3. The drawings filed on 26 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.		
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). ★ Certified copies not received: 		
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.		
 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted. (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d). 		
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.		
 Attachment(s) 1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0 Paper No./Mail Date 20041229 4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	6. ☐ Interview Summary Paper No./Mail Dat 8), 7. ☐ Examiner's Amendn	ė .

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

> The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards a decoding method and apparatus. The closest prior art, Kobayashi (USPN 6,411,229 B2), shows a similar system, in which, a variable length decoder which can reduce the processing time, the variable length decoder comprises plural decoding table address generation circuits, and a selector for selecting one of plural address candidates generated from these circuits. During decoding of one variable length code, the variable length decoder obtains address candidates for the next variable length code, and then selects one of the address candidates for the next variable length code on the basis of an obtained code length of the variable length code, to output the same to the decoding table RAM. However, Kobayashi fails to address: "for a comparison step of comparing input coded data with the minimum code words or maximum code words outputted from the table selected at a table selection step by using N comparators and a class discrimination step of obtaining a class number corresponding to an initial code word of the input coded data based on results of comparison by the N comparators". These distinct features have been added to all independent claims and render them allowable.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

- ➤ Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 571-272-7386.
- The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.. 8:00 am thru 6:30pm.lf attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph Mancuso can be reached on 571-272-7695.

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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ANDREW W. JOHNS PRIMARY EXAMINER

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